

17 June 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Seminar on Small Nuclear Forces/Middle East Dynamics,
Center for Strategic and International Studies
(CSIS), Georgetown University, 15 June 1982

Some noteworthy comments of some noteworthy conference participants as heard by this "observer":

Israel has no need for nuclear weapons because it enjoys strategic deterrence now. Nuclear forces in the Middle East will be seen by the superpowers as threatening superpower interests in the region and not the superpower homelands (Shai Feldman, Stanford U.).

A "catalytic war" (use of a nuclear bomb by a Third country to initiate a superpower confrontation) is not a very real threat for now, but the West should prevent introduction of nuclear weapons in the Middle East (Robert Hunter, CSIS).

The "nuclear problem" in the Middle East is going to be with us a lot sooner than we think--it should be moved to the top of the priority list. It hasn't been dealt with because nobody wants to raise it. (Harold Saunders, AEI).

The Middle East represents a "real-estate" war if there ever was one--Arabs want to live where Israeli's are and therefore they won't ever drop nuclear bombs on Israel. Some part of Egypt's "shift" is explainable by the existence of an Israeli nuclear bomb. Re catalytic warfare, there should be ways of "fingerprinting" a bomb set off, say, in the Straits of Hormuz (George Quester, NDU).

The Middle East nuclear issue needs to be brought out of the closet. Intelligence has the most important role in order to help establish at least a potential to pre-empt, diplomatically or physically, nuclear capabilities (Kenneth Myers, CSIS).

The Soviets and the US ought to seize the opportunity provided by the anti-nuclear movement to arrange for nuclear crisis management (Michael Moodie, CSIS).

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Middle East leaders must be taught the dangers of nuclear
war and negotiations on a nuclear weapons free zone would afford
an appropriate occasion (Leslie Janka, DGA International).

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